

McCarthy acknowledged that MIGA's intent at this point was to coordinate the opposition efforts of MIGA with those of its allies in Wisconsin.

### **1. Opponents Mobilize Congressional Support**

By March 1994, it was clear that the Minnesota tribes, in words of BlueDog, "actively opposed" the Hudson casino proposal.<sup>110</sup> On March 9, Stanley Crooks and Kurt BlueDog of the Shakopee Tribe met with Congressman David Minge (D-Minn.) – who represented the district containing the Shakopee reservation and casinos – to discuss the tribe's position on the Hudson casino proposal. BlueDog cannot clearly recall what transpired at this meeting; Minge does not recall either, but he does recall meeting with BlueDog on the Hudson matter from time to time, and perceiving that the Shakopee were the prime movers against the application.

On March 25, BlueDog sent a follow-up letter to Rep. Minge and attached a proposed letter for the Minnesota congressional delegation to send to Secretary Babbitt. BlueDog asked Minge to "coordinate an effort among the Minnesota Congressional delegation to collectively correspond with Interior Secretary Babbitt in opposition to the proposal." A signed version of this Minnesota congressional delegation letter sponsored by Minge's office was sent to Secretary Babbitt on May 1.<sup>111</sup>

The final signed version of the delegation letter was nearly identical to the draft letter written by Ducheneaux in March. The only substantive difference was that the final version

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<sup>110</sup>Letter from Kurt BlueDog to David Minge, March 25, 1994.

<sup>111</sup>The signatories were Sen. David Durenberger (R-Minn.) and Reps. Minge, James Oberstar (D-Minn.), Martin Sabo (D-Minn.), Bruce Vento (D-Minn.), Timothy Penny (D-Minn.), Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) and James Ramstad (R-Minn.). Of the seven congressmen and one senator who signed the May 1 letter, five were Democratic members and two – Sen. Durenberger and Rep. Ramstad – were Republican.